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(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE OPTICAL PURIFICATION OF ENANTIOMERICALLY ENRICHED BENZIMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES		
(57) Abstract Process for the optical purification of the single enantiomers of some 2-sulphinyl-1H-benzimidazole derivatives and another structurally related sulfoxide from the respective enantiomerically enriched preparation thereof.		

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A PROCESS FOR THE OPTICAL PURIFICATION OF ENANTIOMERICALLY ENRICHED BENZIMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES

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Technical field

The present invention relates to a process for the optical purification of enantiomerically enriched preparations of some 2-(pyridinylmethylsulphonyl)-1H-benzimidazole derivatives as well as another structurally related sulfoxide.

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Prior art

There are a large number of patents and patent applications disclosing different substituted 2-(pyridinylmethylsulphonyl)-1H-benzimidazoles and structurally related sulfoxides. This class of compounds has properties making the compounds useful as inhibitors of gastric acid secretion. For example the compound (5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole), having the generic name omeprazole, and therapeutically acceptable salts thereof are described in EP 5129. Omeprazole and its alkaline salts are effective gastric acid secretion inhibitors, and are useful as antiulcer agents. Other compounds also effective as gastric acid secretion inhibitors are the compounds 2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridinyl]methyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole having the generic name lansoprazole, described in EP-A1-174726; 2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]methyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole having the generic name pariprazole, described in EP 268956; 2-[[2-(N-isobutyl-N-methylamino)benzyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole having the generic name leminoprazole, described in GB 2163747 and 2-[(4-methoxy-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-

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cyclohepta[b]pyridin-9-yl)sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole which is described in EP 434999.

5 These compounds omeprazole, lansoprazole, pariprazole and leminoprazole all have a stereogenic centre at the sulphur atom and thus exist as two stereoisomers (enantiomers). The compound 2-[(4-methoxy-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta[b]pyridin-9-yl)sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole has two stereogenic centers, one centre at the methine carbon atom adjacent to the sulphur atom and one at the sulphur atom. Thus, this compound exists as four stereoisomers (two
10 pair of enantiomers). Even though the 2-(pyridinylmethylsulphinyl)-1H-benzimidazole class of chiral sulphoxides, including omeprazole, have been described in the scientific literature since the late seventies, there is not yet any efficient asymmetric process reported for the synthesis of the single enantiomers thereof. The single enantiomers of pharmacologically active compounds have met
15 an increased interest in the last years because of improved pharmacokinetic and biological properties. Therefore, there is a need for a process that can be used in large scale for the preparation of the single enantiomers of omeprazole and of other optical pure omeprazole analogues. Generally, asymmetric processes for obtaining chiral sulphoxides afford optically active sulphoxides in
20 enantiomerically enriched forms rather than in pure single enantiomeric forms unless the processes are enzymatic transformations or resolution methods. Therefore, there is also a need for a method that can be used in large scale for the enhancement of optical purity for enantiomerically enriched preparations of optically active omeprazole and other optically active omeprazole analogues.

25

Prior art discloses processes for resolution of different substituted 2-(2-pyridinylmethylsulphinyl)-1H-benzimidazoles. For example in DE 4035455 and WO 94/27988 such resolution processes are described. These processes involve reaction steps wherein a diastereomeric mixture is synthesised from the racemate
30 of the corresponding substituted 2-(2-pyridinylmethylsulphinyl)-1H-benzimidazoles. The diastereomers are then separated and finally the separated

diastereomer is converted to the optically pure sulphoxide in a hydrolytic step. These resolution methods involving diastereomeric intermediates, suffer from at least three fundamental disadvantages namely:

- 5 1) The substituted 2-(2-pyridinylmethylsulphanyl)-1H-benzimidazole, as a racemic intermediate, has to be further processed in a couple of reaction steps before the single enantiomers can be obtained.
- 2) The resolution processes involve complicated separation steps.
- 10 3) There is a large waste of highly refined material when the unwanted stereoisomer, in the form of the opposite diastereomer, is discarded.

Further, prior art discloses for instance enantioselective synthesis of a 2-(2-pyridinylmethylsulphanyl)-1H-benzimidazole derivative, namely the single
15 enantiomers of the sulphoxide agent (5,7-dihydro-2-[[4-methoxy-3-methyl -2-pyridinyl)methyl]-sulphanyl]-5,5,7,7-tetramethylindeno-[5,6-d]-imidazol-6-(1H)-one) see Euro. J. Biochem. 166 (1987) 453-459. This process is based on an enantioselective oxidation of the corresponding prochiral sulphide to said
20 sulphoxide. The authors state that the crude product of the sulphoxide, showing an enantiomeric excess (e.e.) of about 30%, can be purified to optical pure sulphoxide [(e.e.) > 95%] by several steps of crystallisation. However, the yields and the number of crystallisation steps are not reported.

This proposed crystallization method is not suitable for the kind of substances
25 according to the compounds of formula Ia- Ie in the present application.

Summary of the invention.

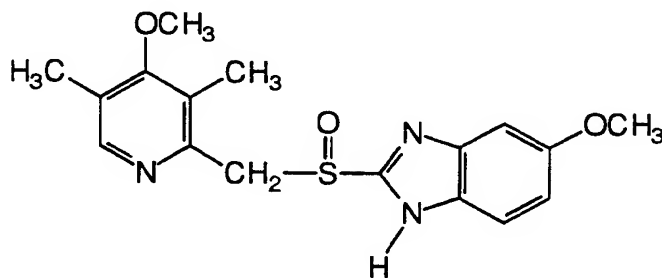
30 The object of the present invention is to provide a novel process for the enhancement of the optical purity (enantiomeric excess, e.e.) for enantiomerically

enriched preparations of omeprazole, lansoprazole, pariprazole, leminoprazole and 2-[(4-methoxy-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta[b]pyridin-9-yl)sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole. Surprisingly, the racemates of these compounds are very selectively precipitated from a solvent yielding the single enantiomers with an enhanced optical purity.

The process of the invention is defined in claim 1 and further preferred embodiments of the invention are disclosed in claims 2-9. Preferred compounds prepared by the new process are defined in claims 10-19.

Detailed description of the invention.

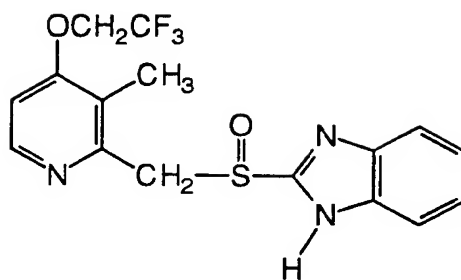
The process of the present invention is characterised by the steps of treating an enantiomerically enriched preparation of optically active omeprazole of the formula Ia



Ia

or of optically active lansoprazole of the formula Ib

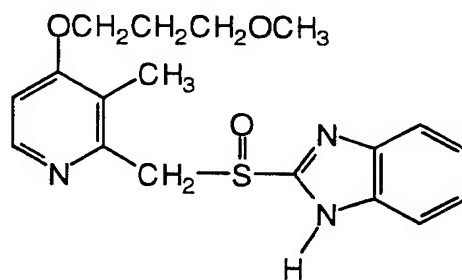
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Ib

or of optically active pariprazole of the formula Ic

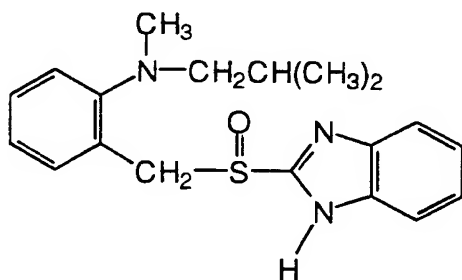
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Ic

or of optically active leminoprazole of the formula Id

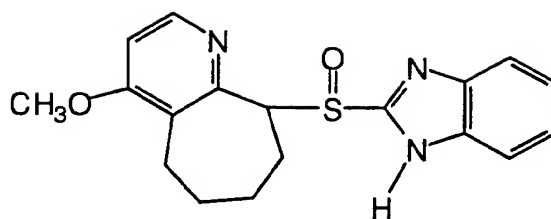
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Id

or of optically active 2-[(4-methoxy-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta[b]pyridin-9-yl)sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole of the formula Ie

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1e

5 with a solvent from which the racemate is selectively precipitated. The precipitated benzimidazole derivative as a racemate, or as a racemate together with a small amount of the desired enantiomer is filtered off and the single enantiomer of the benzimidazole derivative, either as its (-)-enantiomer or as its (+)-enantiomer, with a dramatically enhanced optical purity is obtained by
10 removing the solvent of the filtrate. The solvent is preferably removed by evaporation. The substituted 2-(2-pyridinylmethylsulphonyl)-1H-benzimidazole, to be treated in the process, is preferably omeprazole.

The precipitation is carried out in a protic or a non-protic solvent. The solvent
15 facilitate the crystallisation and is necessary for the separation. The choice of solvent from which the racemate is precipitated is not essential for the process. Preferably the solvent is an organic solvent. A suitable organic solvent can be a ketone such as acetone or 2-butanone, or an ester such as ethyl acetate, or an alcohol such as ethanol, or a nitrile such as acetonitrile, or a hydrocarbon such as
20 toluene. The solvent may also be an ether, an amide or any other organic solvent from which the racemate of the compounds according to formula Ia-Ie can be selectively precipitated. The solvent may also be a mixture of different organic solvents or a mixture of water and organic solvents. Preferably the solvent is one selected among acetone, toluene or acetonitrile.

25

The temperature is not important for the process of the invention. However, if the temperature is too high the solubility increases, the selectivity decreases and the

compound decomposes. Therefore, room temperature is preferred, but also temperatures below room temperature are suitable.

Thus, a preferred feature of the process of the invention is that the racemates of the compounds according to formula Ia-Ie surprisingly are very selectively crystallised from an organic solvent. A dramatic enhancement of the enantiomeric excess of the (-)-enantiomer or the (+)-enantiomer of the present compounds is obtained in the mother liquor (filtrate), even after only one racemate crystallisation. Therefore, the process becomes highly effective. Consequently, the single enantiomers can be obtained with a very high enantiomeric excess even from optically impure preparations. This means that a high enantioselectivity is not essential for the asymmetric synthesis of the said optical active compounds, e.g. the asymmetric oxidation of corresponding prochiral sulphide. Thus, a broader scope of synthetic methods can be considered when choosing the most appropriate asymmetric synthesis processes for obtaining the compounds according to formula Ia-Ie. For example chemical yield, cost of reagents, reaction time and grade of dangerousness of handling reagents may thus be as important factors as enantioselectivity when making the choice of synthetic method.

The invention is illustrated more in detail by the following examples 1-16. The invention is illustrated together with an asymmetric synthesis in examples 7-9.

EXAMPLES

The enantiomeric excess value in each example given below gives an indication of the relative amount of each enantiomer. The value is defined as the difference between the relative percentages for the two enantiomers. Thus, for example, when the percentage of the (-)-enantiomer of the sulfoxide is 97.5% and the percentage for the (+)-enantiomer is 2.5%, the enantiomeric excess for the (-)-enantiomer is 95%.

The enantiomeric composition of each sulphoxide was determined by chiral HPLC on either a Chiralpak AD Column or a Chiral AGP Column under the following conditions:

5 Compound of formula Ia.

Column Chiralpak AD 50x4.6 mm

Eluent iso-Hexane (100 ml), ethanol (100 ml) and acetic acid (10µl)

Flow 0.5 ml/min

Inj.vol. 50 µl

10 Wavelength 302 nm

Retention time for the (-)-enantiomer 4.0 min

Retention time for the (+)-enantiomer 5.8 min

Compound of formula Ib.

15 Column Chiral AGP 100x4.0 mm

Eluent Sodium phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.0), I=0.025 (500 ml) and acetonitrile (70 ml)

Flow 0.5 ml/min

Inj.vol. 20 µl

20 Wavelength 210 nm

Retention time for the (+)-enantiomer 6.2 min

Retention time for the (-)-enantiomer 7.2 min

Compound of formula Ic.

25 Column Chiral AGP 100x4.0 mm

Eluent Sodium phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.0), I=0.025 (430 ml) and acetonitrile (70 ml)

Flow 0.5 ml/min

Inj.vol. 20 µl

30 Wavelength 210 nm

Retention time for the (+)-enantiomer 4.1 min

Retention time for the (-)-enantiomer 6.8 min

Compound of formula Id.

- 5 Column Chiralpak AD 50x4.6 mm
 Eluent iso-Hexane (200 ml) and ethanol (10 ml)
 Flow 0.5 ml/min
 Inj.vol. 50 µl
 Wavelength 285 nm

- 10 Retention time for the (-)-enantiomer 9.0 min
 Retention time for the (+)-enantiomer 9.8 min

Compound of formula Ie.

- Column Chiralpak AD 50x4.6 mm
15 Eluent iso-Hexane (150 ml) and 2-propanol (50 ml)
 Flow 0.4 ml/min
 Inj.vol. 50 µl
 Wavelength 285 nm
 Retention time for the (-)-enantiomer of diastereomer A 6.9 min
20 Retention time for the (+)-enantiomer of diastereomer A 8.1 min
 Retention time for the (+)-enantiomer of diastereomer B 8.8 min
 Retention time for the (-)-enantiomer of diastereomer B 11.0 min
 The first diastereomer of compound (Ie) eluted on straight phase (achiral silica gel, see below) is named diastereomer A and second as diastereomer B.

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Example 1. Enhancement of optical purity from 60% e.e. to 98.4% e.e. for (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (-)-(Ia)

- 30 2.35 g of a mixture of the enantiomers of 5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole (60% e.e., in favour of the (-)-

enantiomer) as a yellow syrup was dissolved in 20 ml of acetonitrile. Almost immediately the racemate as a solid appeared and after 30 minutes in a refrigerator this white solid was filtered off. The solvent of the filtrate was evaporated to yield 1.2 g of the (-)-enantiomer of omeprazole as a yellow syrup
5 with an optical purity of 98.4% e.e.

Example 2. Enhancement of optical purity from 20% e.e to 91.4% e.e for
(-)-5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-
1H-benzimidazole, (-)-(Ia)

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2.35 g of a mixture of the enantiomers of 5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole (20% e.e., in favour of the (-)-enantiomer) as a yellow syrup was dissolved in 20 ml of 2-butanone. Almost immediately the racemate as a solid appeared and after one hour in a refrigerator
15 this white solid was filtered off. The solvent of the filtrate was evaporated to yield 0.48 g of the (-)-enantiomer of omeprazole as a yellow syrup with an optical purity of 91.4% e.e.

Example 3. Enhancement of optical purity from 50% e.e. to 97.3% e.e. for
20 (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-
1H-benzimidazole, (-)-(Ia)

2.35 g of a mixture of the enantiomers of 5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole (50% e.e., in favour of the (-)-enantiomer) as a yellow syrup was dissolved in 20 ml of acetone. Almost
25 immediately the racemate as a solid appeared and after one hour in a refrigerator this white solid was filtered off. The solvent of the filtrate was evaporated to yield 1.0 g of the (-)-enantiomer of omeprazole as a yellow syrup with an optical purity of 97.3% e.e.

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Example 4. Enhancement of optical purity from 80% e.e. to 95.4% e.e. for (+)-5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (+)-(Ia)

- 5 2.35 g of a mixture of the enantiomers of 5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole (80% e.e., in favour of the (+)-enantiomer) as a yellow syrup was dissolved in 20 ml of ethyl acetate. Almost immediately the racemate as a solid appeared and after one hour in a refrigerator this white solid was filtered off. The solvent of the filtrate was evaporated to yield
- 10 1.7 g of the (+)-enantiomer of omeprazole as a yellow syrup with an optical purity of 95.4% e.e.

Example 5. Enhancement of optical purity from 40% e.e. to 88.7% e.e. for (+)-5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (+)-(Ia)

- 15 2.35 g of a mixture of the enantiomers of 5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole (40% e.e., in favour of the (+)-enantiomer) as a yellow syrup was dissolved in 20 ml of ethanol. Almost
- 20 immediately the racemate as a solid appeared and after one hour in a refrigerator this white solid was filtered off. The solvent of the filtrate was evaporated to yield 1.0 g of the (+)-enantiomer of omeprazole as a yellow syrup with an optical purity of 88.7% e.e.

25 Example 6. Enhancement of optical purity from 30% e.e. to 97.0% e.e. for (+)-5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (+)-(Ia)

- 30 2.35 g of a mixture of the enantiomers of 5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole (30% e.e., in favour of the (+)-enantiomer) as a yellow syrup was dissolved in 20 ml of toluene. Almost

immediately the racemate as a solid appeared and after one hour in a refrigerator this white solid was filtered off. The solvent of the filtrate was evaporated to yield 0.62 g of the (+)-enantiomer of omeprazole as a yellow syrup with an optical purity of 97.0% e.e.

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Example 7. Asymmetric synthesis followed by optical purification of (+)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (+)-(Ia)

10 A mixture of 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]thio]-1H-benzimidazole (0.47 g, 1.46 mmol), (3'S,2R)-(-)-N-(phenylsulphonyl)-(3,3-dichlorocamphoryl)oxaziridine (0.55 g, 1.46 mmol), triethylamine (0.07 ml, 0.5 mmol) and carbon tetrachloride 20 ml was stirred for 96 hours at ambient temperature. After removal of the solvent the residue was dissolved in methylene
15 chloride (25 ml). The mixture was extracted with two portions of aqueous solutions of sodium hydroxide (0.1 M, 15 ml). The combined aqueous solutions were neutralised with an aqueous solution of ammonium chloride in the presence of methylene chloride. The phases were separated and the aqueous solution was extracted with two portions of methylene chloride. The combined organic
20 solutions were dried over sodium sulphate and then the solvent was removed. The residue (200 mg, 40% e.e.) was dissolved in 2-butanone (3 ml) and the formed solid was filtered off. The solvent of the filtrate was evaporated to yield 0.11 g (22%) of the title compound with an optical purity of 94% e.e.

25 Example 8. Asymmetric synthesis followed by optical purification of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (-)-(Ia)

1.6 kg (5.0 mol) of 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]thio]-1H-benzimidazole was dissolved in 5.0 l of ethyl acetate. To the
30 solution was added 31 ml (1.7 mol) of water. To the mixture was added 856 ml

(5.0 mol) of (-)-diethyl D-tartrate, 744 ml (2.5 mol) of titanium(IV) isopropoxide and 435 ml (2.5 mol) of diisopropylethylamine at room temperature. The addition of 830 ml (4.5 mol) cumene hydroperoxide was then performed at 30°C. After stirring for one hour at 30°C the reaction was complete. Chiral and achiral chromatographic analyses showed that the mixture consisted of 71.4% sulfoxide with an enantiomeric excess (e.e.) of 72.9%. The mixture was cooled to 10°C and after addition of 1.7 l of isooctane, the product was extracted three times with an aqueous ammonia (12%) solution with a total volume of 10 l. The combined aqueous phases were neutralised by addition of 1.5 l of concentrated acetic acid in the presence of ethyl acetate (3 l). The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 l). The solvent of the combined organic solutions was removed and at the end of the evaporation acetonitrile (1.5 l) was added to facilitate the removal of solvent. Acetone (2.5 l) was added to precipitate the racemate of omeprazole which was filtered off (254 g). HPLC-analyses (achiral and chiral columns) of the filtrate showed that this solution consisted of 88% sulfoxide with an optical purity of 96.3% e.e. and thus the optical purity has been improved from 72.9% e.e. to 96.3% e.e. simply by one precipitation of racemic omeprazole. Further, a content analysis (HPLC) of the filtrate showed that the yield was 0.8 kg (46%). The (-)-enantiomer of 5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole was not isolated in its neutral form but further processed to corresponding sodium salt.

Example 9. Asymmetric synthesis followed by optical purification of (+)-5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (+)-(Ia)

1.6 kg (5.0 mol) of 5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]thio]-1H-benzimidazole was dissolved in 7.5 l of ethyl acetate. To the solution was added 31 ml (1.7 mol) water. To the mixture was added 856 ml (5.0 mol) of (+)-diethyl L-tartrate, 744 ml (2.5 mol) of titanium(IV) isopropoxide and 436 ml (2.5 mol) diisopropylethylamine at room temperature. The addition of 830

- ml (4.5 mol) cumene hydroperoxide was then performed at 30°C. After stirring for one hour at 30°C the reaction was complete. Chiral and achiral chromatographic analyses showed that the mixture consisted of 75% sulfoxide with an enantiomeric excess (e.e.) of 80%. The mixture was cooled to 10°C and after
- 5 addition of 1.5 l of isooctane and ethyl acetate (0.5 l), the product was extracted three times with an aqueous ammonia (12%) solution with a total volume of 14 l. The combined aqueous phases were neutralised by addition of 1.5 l of concentrated acetic acid in the presence of ethyl acetate (4 l). The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (4 l). The
- 10 solvent of the combined organic solutions was removed. Acetone (3.0 l) was added to precipitate the racemate of omeprazole which was filtered off. HPLC-analyses (achiral and chiral columns) of the filtrate showed that this solution consisted of 90% sulfoxide with an optical purity of 95% e.e. and thus the optical purity has been improved from 80% e.e. to 95% e.e. simply by one precipitation of
- 15 racemic omeprazole. Further, a content analysis (HPLC) of the filtrate showed that the yield was 1.0 kg (58%). The (+)-enantiomer of 5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole was not isolated in its neutral form but further processed to corresponding sodium salt.
- 20 The starting material in form of enantiomerically enriched preparations for the optical purification of one of the compounds according to formulas Ib, Ic, Id or Ie is prepared as described in examples 8 and 9.

Example 10. Enhancement of the optical purity of two of the stereoisomers of 2-
25 [(4-methoxy-6,7,8,9- tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta[b]pyridin-9-yl)sulphinyl]-1H-
benzimidazole, (Ie).

- In the following example, the first diastereomer of the title compound eluted on straight phase (silica gel) is named diastereomer A and second as diastereomer B.
- 30 The stereoisomeric composition of the title compound in a crude mixture as a syrup (0.25 g) was as follows; The ratio of diastereomers was 4:3 in favour of

diastereomer A. The optical purity of the (-)-enantiomer of diastereomer A was 76% e.e. and the optical purity of the (+)-enantiomer of diastereomer B was 68% e.e.

Separation of the diastereomers. A chromatographic preparation (methanol-

5 methylene chloride 0 to 5%) afforded a separation of the two diastereomers. Thus, the (-)-enantiomer of diastereomer A was obtained as a syrup (0.145 g) with an optical purity of 77% e.e. The (+)-enantiomer of diastereomer B was also obtained as a syrup (0.085 g) with an optical purity of 68% e.e., however, diastereomer B was contaminated with ca. 10% of diastereomer A.

10 Optical purification: The optical purity of the (-)-enantiomer of diastereomer A was enhanced by the addition of ca. 2 ml of acetonitrile to the enantiomerically enriched preparation of diastereomer A (0.145 g). After stirring over night, the formed precipitate (almost racemic diastereomer A) was filtered off and the solvent of the filtrate was removed by film evaporation. Thus, there was obtained
15 85 mg of the (-)-enantiomer of diastereomer A as a syrup with an optical purity of 88% e.e. The optical purity of the (+)-enantiomer of the diastereomer B was enhanced in a similar way. Thus, by addition of acetonitrile (2 ml) to the enantiomerically enriched preparation of diastereomer B (0.085 g) followed by stirring over night resulted in a precipitate which was filtered off. From the
20 filtrate there was obtained 0.050 g of the (+)-enantiomer of diastereomer B with an optical purity of 95% e.e.

Example 11. Enhancement of the optical purity of (-)-2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridinyl]methyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (-)-(Ib).

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1.2 g of a crude mixture of the title compound with an enantiomeric excess (e.e.) of 55% was treated with acetonitrile (a few ml) and there was obtained a precipitate that was removed by filtration. Evaporation of the filtrate afforded an oil with enhanced optical purity. Repeating this procedure a couple of times afforded 0.63
30 g of the desired compound as an oil with an optical purity of 99.5% e.e.

Example 12. Enhancement of the optical purity of (+)-2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridinyl]methyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (+)-(Ib).

0.85 g of a crude mixture of the title compound with an enantiomeric excess (e.e.) of 46% was treated with acetonitrile (a few ml) and there was obtained a precipitate that was removed by filtration. Evaporation of the filtrate afforded an oil with enhanced optical purity. Repeating this procedure a couple of times afforded 0.31 g of the desired compound as an oil with an optical purity of 99.6% e.e.

Example 13. Enhancement of the optical purity of (-)-2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]methyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (-)-(Ic).

1.62 g of a crude mixture of the title compound with an enantiomeric excess (e.e.) of 90% was treated with acetonitrile (a few ml) and there was obtained a precipitate that could be removed by filtration. Concentrating the filtrate afforded 1.36 g of the title compound as an oil with an optical purity of 91.5% e.e.

Example 14. Enhancement of the optical purity of (+)-2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]methyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole, (+)-(Ic).

1.63 g of a crude mixture of the title compound with an enantiomeric excess (e.e.) of 91% was treated with acetonitrile (a few ml) and there was obtained a precipitate that could be removed by filtration. Concentrating the filtrate afforded 1.1 g of the title compound as an oil with an optical purity of 96.0% e.e.

Example 15. Enhancement of the optical purity of (-)-2-[2-(N-isobutyl-N-methylamino)benzylsulphonyl]benzimidazole, (-)-(Id).

1.6 g of a crude mixture of the title compound with an enantiomeric excess (e.e.) of 92% was treated with a small amount of acetonitrile in order to enhance the

optical purity. A formed precipitate was removed by filtration. The solvent of the filtrate was removed by film evaporation and there was obtained 1.2 g of the desired compound as an oil. The optical purity of the material was 96% e.e. according to chiral HPLC.

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Example 16. Enhancement of the optical purity of (+)-2-[2-(N-isobutyl-N-methylamino)benzylsulphinyl]benzimidazole, (+)-(Id).

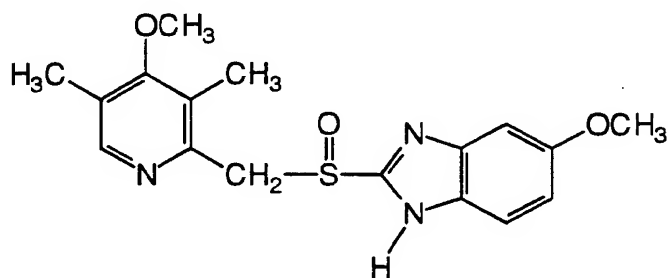
3.0 g of a crude mixture of the title compound (91% e.e.), contaminated with (-)-diethyl D-tartrate, was dissolved in 40 ml of a mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane (10% EtOAc). A formed precipitate (140 mg) was removed by filtration. The solvent of the filtrate was removed by film evaporation and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, EtOAc/Hexane 15:85). There was obtained 0.95 g of the title compound showing an optical purity of 96% e.e. according to chiral HPLC.

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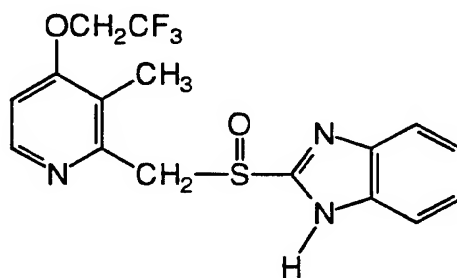
CLAIMS

1. A process for the optical purification of enantiomerically enriched preparations of one of the compounds according to formulas Ia, Ib, Ic, Id and Ie

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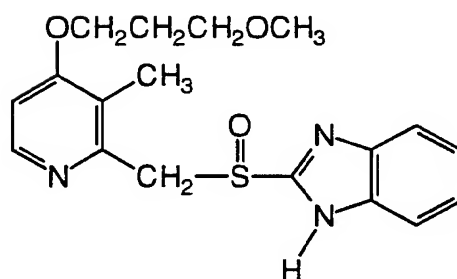


Ia



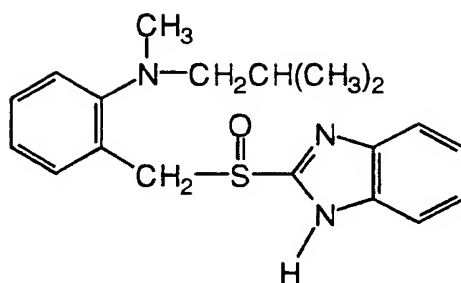
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Ib

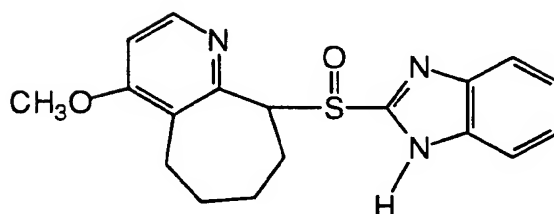


15

Ic



Id



Ie

characterized in that an enantiomerically enriched preparation of a
 10 compound according to anyone of formula Ia-Ie, in favour of either its (+)- or (-)-
 enantiomer is treated with a solvent from which the racemate of said compound is
 selectively precipitated, whereby the precipitated racemate is filtered off followed
 by the removal of the solvent yielding the single enantiomer with an enhanced
 optical purity of the corresponding compound according to formula Ia-Ie.

15

2. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that optical purity of
 the (-)-enantiomer of the compound according to formula Ia is enhanced.

3. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that optical purity of
 20 the (+)-enantiomer of the compound according to formula Ia is enhanced.

4. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the solvent is removed by evaporation.
5. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the
5 enantiomerically enriched preparation is treated with an organic solvent.
6. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched preparation is treated with a mixture of organic solvents.
- 10 7. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched preparation is treated with a mixture of water and one or more organic solvents.
- 15 8. A process according to claim 7 characterized in that the mixture of water and one or more organic solvents contains < 50% water.
9. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the organic solvent is acetone, acetonitrile or toluene.
- 20 10. The compound (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole prepared by the process according to any of claims 1-9.
- 25 11. The compound (+)-5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole prepared by the process according to any of claims 1-9.
- 30 12. The compound (-)-2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole prepared by the process according to any of claims 1-9.

13. The compound (+)-2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole prepared by the process according to any of claims 1-9.

5

14. The compound (-)-2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole.

15. The compound (+)-2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole.

10

16. The compound (-)-2-[2-(N-isobutyl-N-methylamino)benzylsulphonyl]-benzimidazole.

15 17. The compound (+)-2-[2-(N-isobutyl-N-methylamino)benzylsulphonyl]-benzimidazole.

18. The compound (-)-2-[(4-methoxy-6,7,8,9- tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta[b]pyridin-9-yl)sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole.

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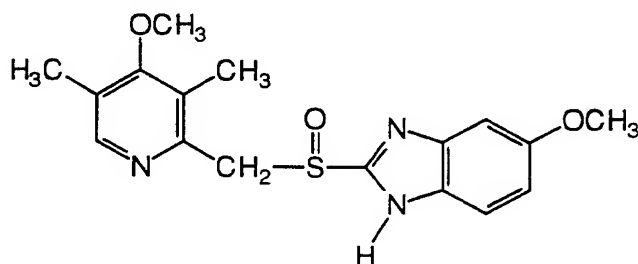
19. The compound (+)-2-[(4-methoxy-6,7,8,9- tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta[b]pyridin-9-yl)sulphonyl]-1H-benzimidazole.

AMENDED CLAIMS

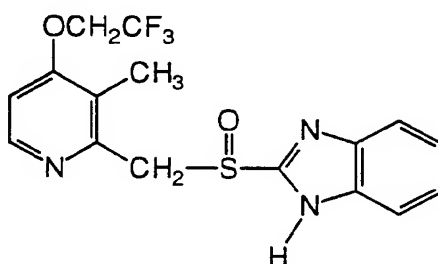
[received by the International Bureau on 27 November 1996 (27.11.96);
original claims 10-19 amended; remaining claims unchanged (4 pages)]

1. A process for the optical purification of enantiomerically enriched
preparations of one of the compounds according to formulas Ia, Ib, Ic, Id and Ie

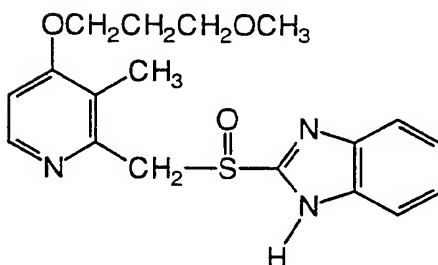
5



Ia

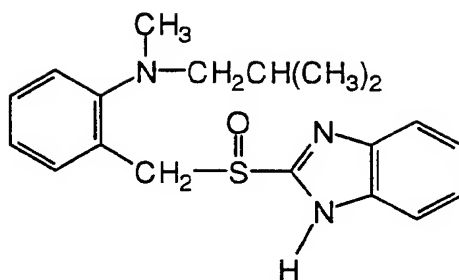


Ib

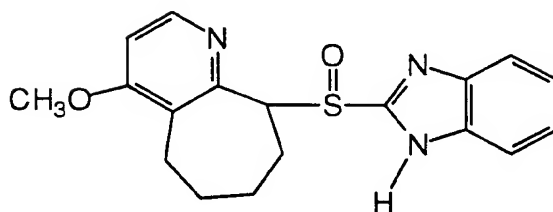


Ic

15



Id



Ie

5

characterized in that an enantiomerically enriched preparation of a
 10 compound according to anyone of formula Ia-Ie, in favour of either its (+)- or (-)-
 enantiomer is treated with a solvent from which the racemate of said compound is
 selectively precipitated, whereby the precipitated racemate is filtered off followed
 by the removal of the solvent yielding the single enantiomer with an enhanced
 optical purity of the corresponding compound according to formula Ia-Ie.

15

2. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that optical purity of
 the (-)-enantiomer of the compound according to formula Ia is enhanced.
3. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that optical purity of
 20 the (+)-enantiomer of the compound according to formula Ia is enhanced.

4. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the solvent is removed by evaporation.
5. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched preparation is treated with an organic solvent.
6. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched preparation is treated with a mixture of organic solvents.
- 10 7. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched preparation is treated with a mixture of water and one or more organic solvents.
- 15 8. A process according to claim 7 characterized in that the mixture of water and one or more organic solvents contains < 50% water.
9. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the organic solvent is acetone, acetonitrile or toluene.
- 20 10. A process according to anyone of claims 1-9, wherein the prepared product is (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole.
- 25 11. A process according to anyone of claims 1-9, wherein the prepared product is (+)-5-methoxy-2-[[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole.
12. A process according to anyone of claims 1-9, wherein the prepared product is (-)-2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole.
- 30

13. A process according to anyone of claims 1-9, wherein the prepared product is (+)-2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole.
- 5 14. A process according to anyone of claims 1-9, wherein the prepared product is (-)-2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole.
- 10 15. A process according to anyone of claims 1-9, wherein the prepared product is (+)-2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole.
16. A process according to anyone of claims 1-9, wherein the prepared product is
- 15 (-)-2-[2-(N-isobutyl-N-methylamino)benzylsulphinyl]-benzimidazole.
17. A process according to anyone of claims 1-9, wherein the prepared product is (+)-2-[2-(N-isobutyl-N-methylamino)benzylsulphinyl]-benzimidazole.
- 20 18. A process according to anyone of claims 1-9, wherein the prepared product is one of the single enantiomers of the more lipophilic diastereomer of 2-[(4-methoxy-6,7,8,9- tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta[b]pyridin-9-yl)sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole.
- 25 19. A process according to anyone of claims 1-9, wherein the prepared product is one of the single enantiomers of the less lipophilic diastereomer of 2-[(4-methoxy-6,7,8,9- tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta[b]pyridin-9-yl)sulphinyl]-1H-benzimidazole.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 96/00841

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: C07D 401/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: C07D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

CAS-ONLINE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9515962 A1 (ASTRA AKTIEBOLAG), 15 June 1995 (15.06.95), see example 3 --	1-9
A	WO 9427988 A1 (ASTRA AKTIEBOLAG), 8 December 1994 (08.12.94), see example 1 --	1-9
X	DE 4035455 A1 (BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEMISCHE FABRIK GMBH), 14 May 1992 (14.05.92) --	10-13

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 October 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

08-10-1996

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 96/00841

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Chem. Pharm. Bull., Volume 42, No 3, 1994, Shin-ichi Yamada et al, "Syntheses and Antiulcer Activities of Novel 2-((6,7,8, 9-Tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta(b)Pyridin-9-Yl)Sulfinyl) -1H-Benzimidazole Analogues" page 718 - page 720 -- -----	18-19

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

05/09/96

International application No.

PCT/SE 96/00841

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO-A1-	9515962	15/06/95	AU-A-	1251295	27/06/95
			IL-D-	111707	00/00/00
			SE-D-	9304065	00/00/00
			ZA-A-	9409032	18/07/95
			SE-D-	9403728	00/00/00
WO-A1-	9427988	08/12/94	AU-A-	6902494	20/12/94
			CN-A-	1110477	18/10/95
			CZ-A-	9500202	18/10/95
			EP-A-	0652872	17/05/95
			FI-A-	950377	27/01/95
			HU-A-	71888	28/02/96
			HU-D-	9500247	00/00/00
			IL-D-	109684	00/00/00
			JP-T-	7509499	19/10/95
			LT-A-	1941	27/12/94
			LT-B-	3287	26/06/95
			NO-A-	950263	24/01/95
			PL-A-	307261	15/05/95
			SI-A-	9420002	31/08/95
			SK-A-	10195	13/09/95
			ZA-A-	9403557	11/04/95
DE-A1-	4035455	14/05/92	AU-A-	8840691	11/06/92
			WO-A-	9208716	29/05/92